

What's happening?

*the magnificent array of
blue and black and bronze koi*

**Sandra
Jacqueline Lock**

Faculty of Integrated Arts and Sciences

Research Student



It's the start of the new university year and a busy season but also a season of beauty and flamboyant colour. Earlier I had seen the beginnings of the sakura and dreamed of picnics under a pink umbrella of blossom, a gentle shower of petals floating down into my sake cup with evening skies lit by the transient brilliance of "fireflowers." Alas I missed it all! I had to go back to UK for a viva examination as part of my degree course.

But it was exhilarating to come back. As the taxi approached the corner by the big Co-op supermarket in Kitajima on my return, I caught my breath because there was the magnificent array of blue and black and bronze koi, animated and shimmering as they 'fought' their way 'upstream' against the oncoming breeze. The display is a traditional Koinobori erected each year by the Co-op to celebrate the festive season (Boy's Day on 5th May, in particular) and a rather nice reminder too, that the Golden Week holiday is also just around the corner.

My return to university was no less exciting. Our smart and imposing Number 3 building is open for business. Over the previous months we have watched it grow, not so much as a phoenix from the ashes but more as the fairy tale "ugly duckling" of a bare shell slowly being turned into a creature of grand and handsome stature. In and around our laboratory area it is bright and airy. And it is very impressive...searching for the light switch in a dark corridor later in the evening or even in the ladies restroom is quite unnecessary! Automatic sensors respond in moments and lights blaze out to show the way without so much as my lifting a finger! It is a very good season and a joy and privilege to be here in the midst of it.

